

PARTNERSHIP PLAN FOR RECREATIONAL SERVICES

Submitted by:

COALITION TO IMPROVE NEWARK RECREATION

January 1985

The Coalition to Improve Newark Recreation was formed in early 1984 by over 10 citizen groups from throughout the city. The Coalition believes that Newark's public recreation centers, across the city, must be rehabilitated, opened, well-maintained and well-operated.

The Coalition has called upon city officials to recognize the need for safe and sanitary recreation facilities and for an aggressive recreation program. It believes that the city must:

- 1) immediately use the approved capital funds to begin the planned rehabilitation and renovation of recreation facilities, and
- 2) establish, with community input, a comprehensive year-round schedule of structured activities for all ages and in particular, those activities that aid in the development of the mind and body of our youth.

The Coalition has pledged their readiness and willingness to work in partnership with the city to ensure that creative and productive recreational program are established in all our facilities. To this end, the Coalition has met with the Mayor and Director of Recreation to advocate for improvements in recreation. As a result of that meeting, the Coalition to Improve Newark Recreation has developed the following as the Partnership Plan for Recreational Services:

The Coalition has identified four (4) facilities for immediate attention. Each facility has a concerned group of residents prepared to join with the city in program development and implementation. The 4 facilities and citizen groups are as follows:

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Citizen Group</u>
1. JFK Recreation Center	Newark Swim Team & JFK Advisory Committee
2. Boylan St. Recreation Center	Committee for Boylan St. Rec Center
3. Wilson Ave. Pool	Committee to Open Wilson Ave. Pool
4. St. Peter's Recreation Center	South Ward Recreation Coalition

While each area has local concerns and needs, the Coalition has agreed that there are basic tenents to the Partnership Plan with the city. These are:

- 1) COMMUNITY OVERSIGHT - The best way to ensure a successful program and to decrease acts of vandalism on the facility is to have a strong community presence and a sense of community ownership among the residents. To achieve this end, each citizen group will develop a structured "Community Oversight Board" to meet monthly with Center and Recreational Department staff to discuss all aspects of program operation. Each Board will interview and make recommendations for all staff assigned to the Center, will evaluate existing and propose new program activities, and will help determine policies and procedures for the facility.
- 2) VOLUNTEERISM - Each Board will have the responsibility to recruit and train volunteers, who possess varied skills, to assist at the Center. Volunteers will serve in a supportive role to each of the Center's staff.
- 3) FUND RAISING - Each Board will attempt to raise a limited amount of funds to assist in program operation as determined by the Board. The question of fees for service will be an option for any Board to adopt.
- 4) CITY FINANCIAL SUPPORT - The City of Newark has the prime responsibility for funding the program/facility operation and maintenance. This funding shall include, but not be limited to the following:
 - a) staffing to ensure an adequate program (including security)
 - b) facility support (maintenance, utilities, etc.)
 - c) program supplies
 - d) insurances
 - e) other related costs.

In addition to these general principles listed above, each citizen group has developed additional plans for their respective facility. The following are those site specific plans:

BOYLAN STREET RECREATION CENTER

The Committee for Boylan St. Recreation Center is committed to the development of a functioning recreation program for all age groups. The Committee seeks to create activities which provide socialization among young people so as to minimize potential or existing delinquent behaviour. Opportunities must be provided for youth so that they can develop social skills for positive self achievement and community involvement. Additionally, programs must be fashioned so as to develop ongoing skills of speed, stamina and strength through large-muscle development activities.

As part of an overall recreation program, the following should be included:

1. Dancing, Drama, Music
2. Aerobics
3. Arts & Crafts
4. Structured & unstructured sports
5. Home economics skills such as sewing, cooking, knitting, etc.
6. Table games
7. Movies
8. Tutorial Programs
9. Counseling of an informal and/or formal nature

The Committee will promote the cooperation of schools, churches and community groups in the development of a viable recreation program. The possibility exists for using court referred juveniles as volunteers as part of their restitution process. The Committee will mobilize residents and recruit volunteers to aid the staff.

The staff must be adequate to offer a full range of program activities and there must be provisions to maintain adequate security within and around the Center. The environment of the facility must be clean, safe and healthy. Appropriate equipment and supplies are necessary for the implementation of a successful year-round program.

JFK RECREATION CENTER

AQUATICS PROGRAM

The Newark Swim Team seeks to combat juvenile delinquency and strengthen family involvement through a varied aquatics program. Swimming is an inexpensive activity which the entire family can enjoy. Additionally, a wide range of aquatic activities will further erode the cultural barrier surrounding aquatics and inner city residents.

The potential for a successful year-round swim program is unlimited provided that the program receives proper promotion and community outreach. As part of any program the following should be included:

1. Learn-to-Swim - aqua babies (ages 1,2), aqua tots (3-4),
youth instructional (5-12), senior citizen instructional
 2. fitness sessions - swimnastics and lap swimming
 3. therapuetic segments for senior citizens and the handicapped
 4. competitive swimming activities
 5. junior & senior life saving courses; scuba & boating courses
 6. a combined tutorial program with recreational swimming
- Additionally, a renovated facility could serve as host for city, county, state and national swim meets.

Proper staffing of a director, lifeguards, custodian, etc. is needed to ensure a successful program operation. The staff will be supported by volunteers who are recruited and trained by the Team. It is planned that the Center will be open from 10am to 9pm, 6 days per week.

MULTI-PURPOSE AREA

As a coalition of several community groups, the JFK Advisory Committee recognizes the need to renovate the Recreation Center so as to meet the recreational needs of the residents of the Central Ward. A properly renovated facility will allow for a year-round comprehensive program to serve all ages of people.

As a multi-purpose center, the facility can offer unlimited possibilities for true recreation. The JFK Advisory Committee is committed to working with recreation staff to ensure that a quality program is developed which includes the following:

1. gymnastics classes
2. physical fitness/exercise & aerobic classes for all sexes & ages
3. organized athletic, cultural & sporting events such as boxing, track meets, karate demonstrations, tennis, basketball leagues, volleyball, etc.
4. after-school tutoring program using community volunteers
5. permanent residency for the PAL (TNT) and YMYWCA track teams

The City of Newark must provide an adequate staffing pattern to accomodate the breath of the programs mentioned above. The Committee will recruit and train volunteers from the community to serve as advisors, coaches, tutors and counselors to assist in the program operation. A comprehensive advertising and publicity campaign will be developed to inform and educate the general public about the JFK Center and its programs. Appropriate equipment must be provided and maintained by all parties.

WILSON AVE. POOL

The Committee to Open Wilson Ave. Pool is committed to seeing that the Pool is properly renovated and re-opened with a viable recreation program. The facility will fill a void in year-round aquatics and recreational activities for the residents of the area.

The Committee feels that the best course of events for the facility's future is as follows:

- 1) the "Community Oversight Board" for Wilson Ave. Pool will incorporate as a non-profit corporation;
- 2) the Community will lease the facility for a period of 10 years at an annual rental fee of \$1.00;
- 3) the Community will be responsible to raise an agreed upon percentage of operating funds through revenue generating activities such as fees, facility rental, grants, donations and fund raising events; and
- 4) the City will be responsible to provide an agreed upon percentage of operating funds for the program including but not limited to, staff, utilities, equipment, telephone, insurances, materials & supplies, and dry goods.

The Community will work with the staff to develop a full range of aquatic activities for residents of all ages. The group will take responsibility to reach out to various community institutions - churches, schools, hospitals, etc. - to get their input on and cooperation with the planned program. Volunteers will be recruited, trained and scheduled to assist at the Pool and with program activities.

The facility should be open from 10am to 9pm on 6 days per week with a staff of director, lifeguards, engineers and maintenance workers. Security needs must also be dealt with on an on-going basis.

ST. PETER'S RECREATION CENTER

The South Ward Recreation Coalition, which is made up of about 10 local citizen groups, is committed to improving the programs and facility in the Ward. The Coalition seeks to create opportunities for positive and productive recreational outlets. The development of social skills and positive self achievement among our youth must become a priority. Programs must be fashioned in a way which brings out the best among all age groups.

As part of an overall recreation program, the following should be included:

1. Dancing, Drama, Music
2. Aerobics
3. Arts & Crafts
4. Structured & unstructured sports
5. Home economic skills
6. Table games
7. Movies
8. Tutorial Programs
9. Youth Counseling

The Coalition will seek the cooperation of schools, churches and other community groups in developing a viable recreation program. The Coalition will recruit and train residents to serve in a volunteer capacity in the Center.

The staff must be adequate to offer a full range of program activities and there must be proper security and maintenance at the facility. The environment of the facility must be clean, safe and healthy. Appropriate equipment and supplies are necessary for the implementation of a successful year-round program.